

Primarily an analysis of the 1990-91 Gulf War, this book also draws heavily on the Vietnam War experience. COL Summers takes the reader through the evolution in strategic thought from the Vietnam War to the Gulf War. He makes it clear that the change in strategic thought contributed significantly to the Gulf War success.

COL Summers uses Clausewitz (On War) and the Principles of War as his analytical framework. He begins by supporting and expanding on Clausewitz's "Remarkable Trinity," making it clear why domestic support is essential to any wartime effort. In this light we see GEN Abrams' total force Army as an active decision to gain public support for any future conflicts. The required force structure for the Gulf War validated this concept in that the whole nation had to become involved.

Summers then uses Clausewitz to emphasize that war is not an isolated phenomena without cost. The purpose of war is not seen as an end in itself but determined by the political objective. It's with the objective in mind that the price of war is determined. Gradual escalation at increased costs was further discredited. Thus, President Bush had to describe success to the American public in specific detail and at specific costs.

Summers' analysis and argument also demonstrate a shift in doctrinal thinking. He shows us a clear difference between preparation for war and the execution of war.

He finishes this book by thoroughly

applying the Principles of War in light of Cold War and post-Cold War strategy.

He shows us the shift from strategic defense (containment) to strategic offense (assurance). Finally free of Cold War constraints, we see the U.S. willing and capable of leading a coalition force.

On Strategy II is a rich source of material about the development of the Army and other services since Vietnam. I believe it's a must-read book for professional and individual development and especially for Vietnam veterans.

SGM Miguel A. Zamudio

The Great Battles of Antiquity

A Strategic and Tactical Guide to Great Battles that Shaped the Development of War

> By Richard A. Gabriel & Donald W. Boose Jr.

Greenwood Press: Westport, CT, 1994 744 pages, \$95.00 (HB)

NCOs are encouraged to undertake a program of reading, but it's often difficult to select books significant enough to add to one's professional library. The Great Battles of Antiquity is one of those that qualifies.

Gabriel and Boose are on the faculty

of the U.S. Army War College, which allowed them to use the experience of their students in the preparation of this extensive study. The perspective of their Army officer students provides an analysis of ancient battles in terms of the current strategic and tactical approach to the operational problem.

Thirty-one wars, campaigns or battles—ranging from Megiddo (a site referred to in the Bible as Armageddon), fought in 1479 B.C., to the fall of Constantinople, 1453 A.D.—are examined in detail.

The book demonstrates that without an understanding of the battles of the past, a professional soldier cannot adequately understand the campaigns developing for tomorrow. If the reader intends to purchase only one military book this year, this should be the one.

MSG Joseph F. Connolly, II

Code of Honor By Harold Coyle Pocket Books, 1995 432 pages, \$6.50, (PB)

In keeping with Harold Coyle's tradition of novels dealing with global military action, Code of Honor surpasses his other works. If you enjoy Coyle's style, you'll find this book worth reading.

The book is based on the United States' commitment to provide military assistance to Colombia, South America, after an aborted military coup. While concentrating on the activities of the 11th Air Assault Division in country, the book also focuses on the conflict between duty and honor by emphasizing personal suffering and trials of indi-

viduals on the ground.

The 11th's mission is to protect the existing government from revolutionaries and inflict major damage on the drug cartel—minor considerations compared to the internal conflict the division is experiencing. The book brings to light the realization that military protocol is not always morally correct.

The author draws an interesting parallel between the fictional mission in South America and the fall of Saigon in 1975.

MSG Ernesto Mondragon

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